

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 19 March 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity		Burial Location Identified	
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Grave Stone Placement	X

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Ferris, Ernest Lyon	i	Adanac Military Cemetery	link
49 th Infantry Battalion	i	Miraumont, Somme France	i
Captain	i	Plot 8 Row J Grave 5	i
Date of Death 16/09/1916	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Officer's Declaration	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record		Graves Registration Report	6
Circumstance of Casualty	1	Concentration of Grave	
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)		Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	3	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	3	Grave Stone Photograph	7
Possible Candidates List	4	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List	5	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	8

Summary of Findings:

The "Graves Registration Report Form" (GRRF) shows that Plot VIII Row J Grave 5 of the Adanac Military Cemetery is an unknown Captain of the 49th Battalion. Captain Ernest Lyon Ferris is the only unknown Captain of the 49th Battalion listed on the Vimy Memorial.

Two independent site visits to Adanac Military Cemetery have confirmed that the headstones for graves 8.J.5 and 8.J.6 are reversed, relative to the GRRF.

Details of Findings:

The investigation into the Unknown Officer in this grave uncovered the following:

1. The "Circumstance of Death" file for Lieutenant E. L. Ferris reports that he was killed in action in the vicinity of Courcellette on September 16, 1916 (Attachment #1). The record states that the reported location of the grave was "*about 100 yards South East of Courcellette British Cemetery, 5 ¼ miles North East of Albert, France*" and that the grave was registered. The approximate location on the Trench Map was reported as 57d.R.29.c.9.4.
2. The Canada CEF Commonwealth War Grave Register indicates that Ferris's name was to appear on the Vimy Memorial with the proper rank of Captain. The same grave site location was described; however the coordinates were misreported as 57(d) R.29.e.9.4 (Attachment #2).
3. The Adanac Military Cemetery is located at 57d.R.18.a.3.4 which is 2 km due north of Courcellette and the location of the original burial site (Attachment #3). This is an area where graves were brought into Adanac Military Cemetery from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries around Courcellette after the Armistice.
4. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are clear that there were ten (10) Captains of the 49th Infantry Battalion who died during the conflict and that eight (8) of those Captains are in known burial locations and two (2) are listed on memorials for the missing (Attachment #4).
5. Of the ten (10) Captains listed six (6) are recorded in France, three (3) in Belgium and one (1) in Canada. From that we can prepare the exclusion list (Attachment #5).
 - i. Captain McNaughton, although missing, is excluded as he is listed on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.
 - ii. Captains Belcher and Travers are excluded as they have known burial sites in Belgium.
 - iii. Captain Henry Round is excluded as he died in Canada in 1921 and has a known burial site.

That leaves Captain Ferris as the only Captain of the 49th Battalion that was killed in action in France, had no known burial location and was thus listed on the Vimy Memorial.

6. The "Graves Registration Report Form" shows that an Unknown Captain of the 49/ C.E.F. (49th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force) was exhumed from elsewhere and buried in Plot 8 Row J Grave 5, not Grave 6 (Attachment #6).
7. The headstone currently at Plot 8 Row J Grave 5 is marked for an UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER and Plot 8 Row J Grave 6 is marked for "A Captain of the Great War 49th Bn. Canadian Inf." (Attachment #7).

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #8).

It is our conclusion from this investigation that the following corrections are required:

1. The headstones for Graves 5 and 6 in Plot 8 Row J are currently out of order (reversed). The marker currently on Grave 5 should be moved to Grave 6.
2. The headstone for Plot 5 Row J Grave 5 should be replaced to show the details for Captain Ernest Lyon Ferris of the 49th Bn. Canadian Infantry killed on September 16, 1916.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	Lieutenant	FERRIS	Ernest Lyon
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
49th. Battalion	16-9-16	332-106-130	Presbyterian
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"KILLED IN ACTION"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
VICINITY OF COURCELETTE			
NOTE.—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

About 100 yards South East of Courcellette British Cemetery, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles North East of Albert, France.
(Grave Registered)

21. REMARKS.

Approximate Location. Sheet 57d.R.29.c.9.4.

ATTACHMENT #2

Note this rank to be shown on Vimy Memorial as Captain and not 1st Lt. as per file

CAPTAIN *609* *13296* *E-13*

NUMBER..... RANK..... **Lieut** NAME..... **FERRIS E. L.** *332-106430*

UNIT..... **49th Battalion** NEXT-OF-KIN:..... *15083*

FILE NO. R.L. *9-2263*

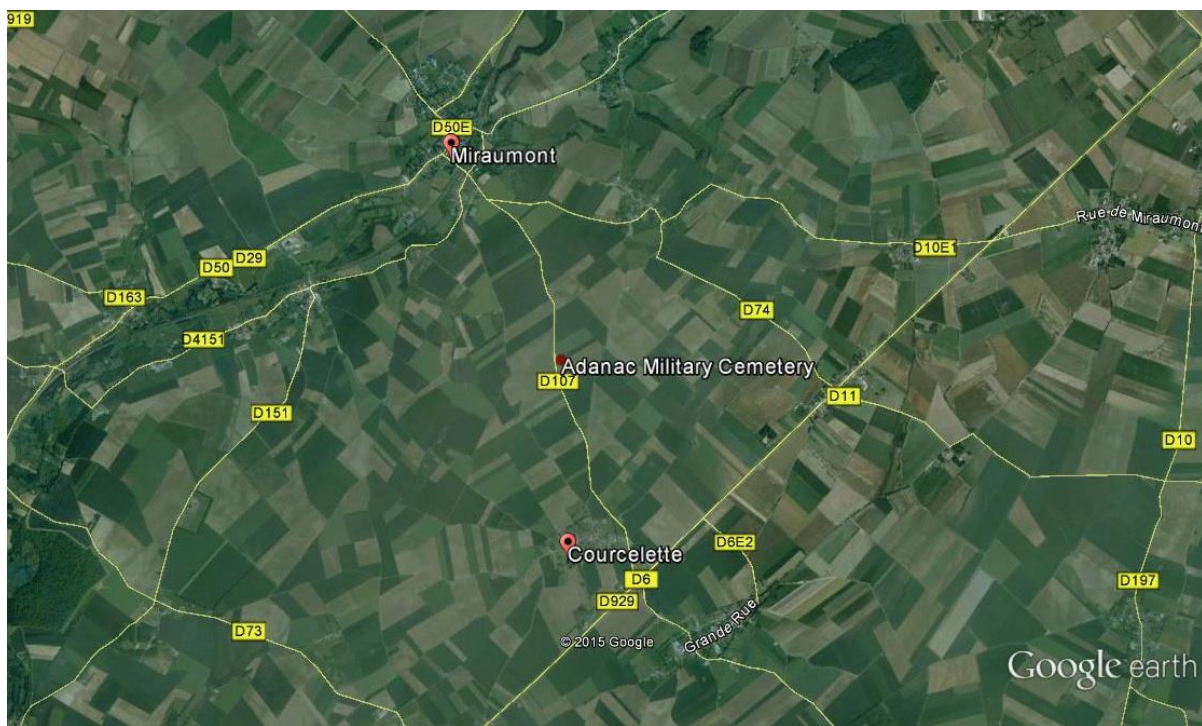
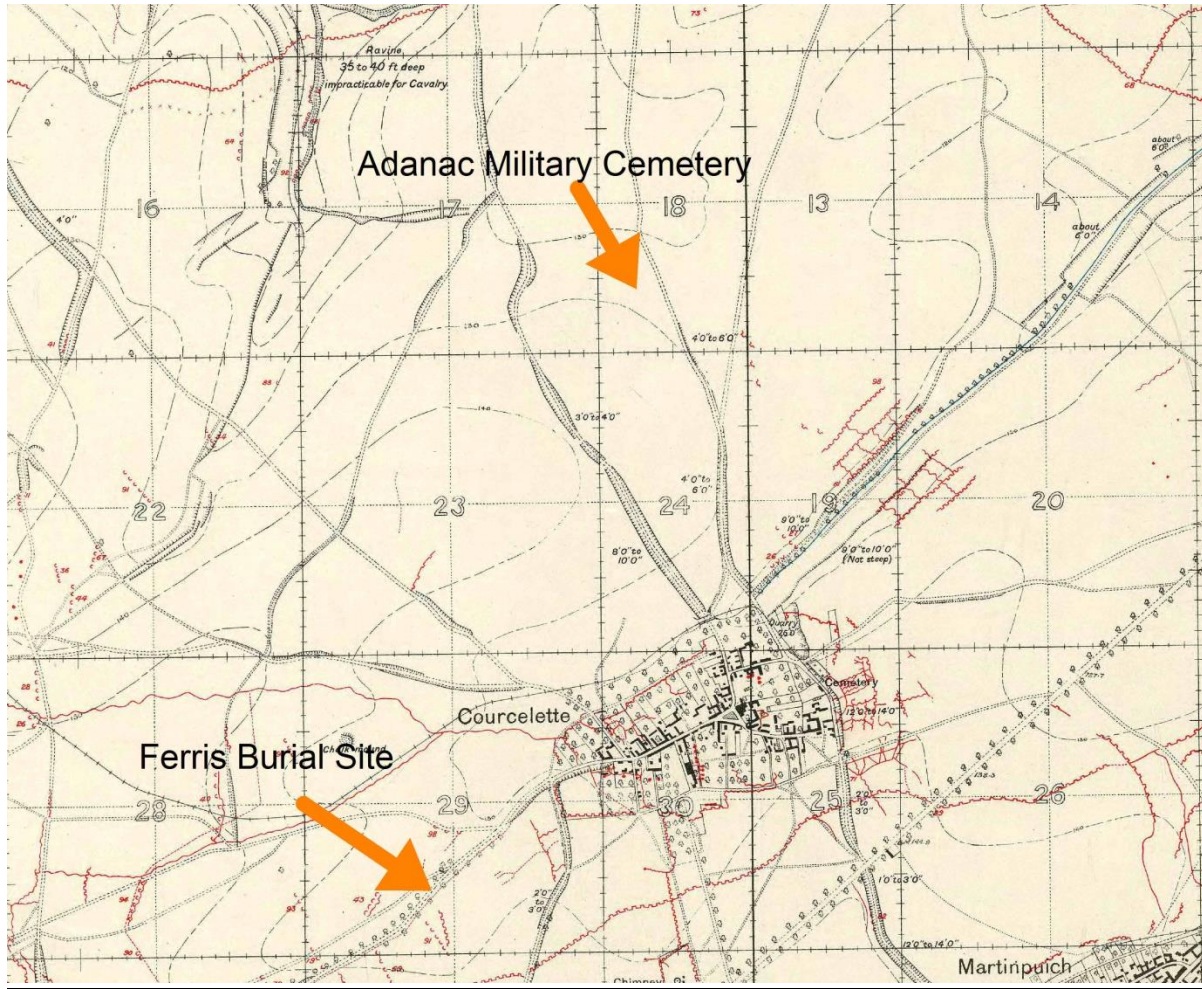
D.G.R. & E. Ref. *Canada*

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
<i>? N-9-16</i> <i>16-9-16</i>	Killed in Action	No 475 Sht.1. <i>332-106-130</i>

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
<i>X</i>	<i>Approx: Le Sars Sh. R. 29. D. 2. S. Authority on R. L. 26-7a</i> <i>Wooden Cross Erected Authority on R. L. 26-7a.</i> <i>54(d) R. 29. e. q. 4. BR 1423 SGR.</i> <i>Burial report by G.R.C.:-</i> <i>About 100 yards S.E. of</i> <i>Branclette British Cem.</i> <i>5 1/2 miles N.E. of Albert</i> <i>BR 47657 SGR.</i>	

VIMY MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #3



ATTACHMENT #4

Captains of the 49th Battalion CEF

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
MacLEOD, DAVID DOUGLAS	Captain		08/08/1916	26	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. A. 30.	ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY	
BELCHER, PERCY JAMES	Captain		30/10/1917	27	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	XXXV. B. 17.	LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY	
MURRAY, NORMAN GRANT	Captain		08/10/1916	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	II. A. 28.	REGINA TRENCH CEMETERY, GRANDCOURT	
TOOLE, DAVID FREDERICK JACK	Captain		29/09/1918	32	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. D. 4.	ONTARIO CEMETERY, SAIN-LES-MARQUION	
FERRIS, ERNEST LYON	Captain		16/09/1916	34	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
McNAUGHTON, PETER	Captain		05/08/1916	44	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
FERRIS, J R	Captain		11/10/1918	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	V. E. 3.	TERLINCHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE	
TRAVERS, OLIVER	Captain		29/10/1917	40	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. M. 10.	BRANDHOEK NEW MILITARY CEMETERY NO.3	
MEAD, CLEMENT GAWLER	Captain		18/01/1918	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	III. C. 4.	FOSSE NO.10 COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SAIN-EN-GOHELLE	
ROUND, HENRY B.	Captain		01/07/1921	59	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	L. 72. Sub-Div. B. G. 12.	EDMONTON CEMETERY, ALBERTA	

ATTACHMENT #5

Captain of the 49th Battalion died in Canada:

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
ROUND, HENRY B.	Captain		01/07/1921	59	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	L. 72. Sub-Div. B. G. 12.	EDMONTON CEMETERY, ALBERTA	

Captains of the 49th Battalion died in Belgium:

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
BELCHER, PERCY JAMES	Captain		30/10/1917	27	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	XXXV. B. 17.	LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY	
McNAUGHTON, PETER	Captain		05/08/1916	44	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
TRAVERS, OLIVER	Captain		29/10/1917	40	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. M. 10.	BRANDHOEK NEW MILITARY CEMETERY NO.3	

Captains of the 49th Battalion died in France

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
MURRAY, NORMAN GRANT	Captain		08/10/1916	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	II. A. 28.	REGINA TRENCH CEMETERY, GRANDCOURT	
TOOLE, DAVID FREDERICK JACK	Captain		29/09/1918	32	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. D. 4.	ONTARIO CEMETERY, SAIN-LES-MARQUION	
FERRIS, ERNEST LYON	Captain		16/09/1916	34	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
FERRIS, J R	Captain		11/10/1918	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	V. E. 3.	TERLINCHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE	
MacLEOD, DAVID DOUGLAS	Captain		08/06/1916	26	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	I. A. 30.	ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY	
MEAD, CLEMENT GAWLER	Captain		18/01/1918	38	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	III. C. 4.	FOSSE NO.10 COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SAIN-EN-GOHELLE	

ATTACHMENT #6

M.MCW. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 4-12-20. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM. 199c

3rd. AREA SERIAL NO. W/. 6887
REPORT No. 90. SCHEDULE No. 50.2

COMMUNE: -MIRA MONT.

PLACE OF BURIAL ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57d.R.18.a.3.4.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		<u>PLOT 8. ROW "H".</u>				
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			All	35. ✓
		" "	"			36. ✓
12/ H.L.I.		AUSTIN ✓	2/Lt.H.M.	18.8.16.	Crosses	37. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER:				38. ✓
		" "	SOLDIER.		Erected.	39. ✓
Gloster		" "	Pte.			40. ✓
		<u>PLOT 8. ROW "J".</u>				
18/ C. E. F.		UNKNOWN	Lieut.			1. ✓
do.		UNKNOWN OFFICER.				2. ✓
do.		" "	"			3. ✓
49/ C. E. F.		"	2/Lt.			4. ✓
do.		"	Capt.			5. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				6. ✓
Hood Bn. R.N.D.	2/8191	UNKNOWN.	R.B. and One }		Rv/34419	7. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				8. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				9. ✓
		" "	"			10. ✓
8/ Yorks & Lancs.	16376	AUSTWICK	Pte. F.			

ENTERED 2106
SLIPS CHECKED 20.11/7/21

ATTACHMENT #7



Special Note:

This is the headstone that currently sits on Plot 8 Row J Grave 6 which was meant to be on Plot J Row J Grave 5. As noted in the report, the grave markers were reversed.

ATTACHMENT #8

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Co.	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author
Steve St. Amant			Site Investigation Report Review
Reg Gervais			Site Photography Report Review